

6th January 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN WASHINGTON – PROGRESS REVIEW Workplan 2010/11 and Task Group Updates.

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update on progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan, **Annex 1a**.

2 Progress report of the Health and Well Being Task and Finish Group.

- 2.1 The Washington Health Champions Project has now commenced. To date all the courses have been agreed, and dates have been booked up to the end of March.

Promotional materials have been disseminated to community groups and networks in the Washington area, and local groups and volunteers have been invited to discuss the programme in early January. Promotional materials have also been disseminated to the statutory sector, linking in to both communication teams in the NHS and the Council. The following elements are underway:

- Understanding Health Improvement – 2 courses have taken place with 22 people attending.
- Alcohol brief intervention – 3 courses have taken place with 27 people attending
- Tobacco Brief Intervention – courses starts 11th January 2011
- Emotional Health and Resilience - course starts mid January 2011
- Introduction to Financial Capability – course starts 10th January 2011

There have been some issues raised with regard to recruiting staff from public sector organisations to the training courses. This is being attributed to the organisations dealing with reduced budgets and restructuring and staff are not able to be released at this time. A further progress report will be presented to a future Area Committee meeting.

3. Progress Report of the Employment and Business Task and Finish Group

- 3.1 The Employment and Business Task and Finish Group has met on a number of occasions and work is underway to address the priority of helping people to access employment opportunities:

- The Group will provide the Area Committee with a further update following the review of Job Linkage and agreement by Cabinet of options for the ongoing provision of a Council led Employability Service.
- The Demand Survey with employers is to commence January 2011
- Development of proposals for the Washington Workspace project is underway
- Feasibility Study looking at linking Washington's Heritage offer to learning and training opportunities is underway and is likely to report early February 2011.

- 3.2 In addition to the work outlined above, the Employment Task and Finish Group is also requesting the Area Committee consider commissioning activity through a Call for Projects to deliver education and skills programmes and generate opportunities for young people in the culture and heritage sector in Washington. This would need to be linked to the recommendations which will come forward from the Feasibility Study being carried out by the North East Civic Trust with regard to Washington's heritage offer.

3.3 Commissioning Activity

Each Area Committee has a Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and can commission activity. To achieve this, the governance of SIB was refreshed to allow Committees to commission activity that would address their strategic priorities by:-

- Committee identifying and agreeing a project brief
- Local statutory and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups being invited to submit a funding application within a given timeframe, explaining how they will deliver the project outlined in the project brief.
- All applications received are appraised. The results of which are shared with Area Committee, with a recommendation to approve the strongest application.
- Funding is awarded and the successful Lead Agent is commissioned to deliver the project, with Area Co-ordination monitoring the delivery of the project against the agreed outputs.
- Committee receive performance management reports to monitor project throughout its delivered.

3.4 The project brief should not define the description of how the project should be delivered, who should be involved or the budget breakdown. It is the responsibility of the applicant to explain and justify how they will deliver the outcomes that are identified.

3.5 The purpose of the consultation and scoring exercise is to consider value for money, the quality of the governance and structure of the organisation applying is adequate, current strategies and external influences are acknowledged, the level of risk management is acceptable and the business case and suitability to deliver the expectation of Committee are justified, before recommendations are made to Area Committee to commit resource.

4. **Reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)**

4.1 Area Committee requested a partnership approach to tackling anti social behaviour through Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group. Operation Horizon is successfully delivering activity to address anti social behaviour. The project is funded to continue until March 2011. The success of this approach is being raised with the Safer Sunderland Partnership's Business Support Group which will consider the learning and best practice from these initiatives and identify a way forward.

5. **2009/10 Workplan Updates**

5.1 Following a recent Washington Area Committee meeting with regard to the Washington Road Safety Scheme, funding has been identified to enable implementation of additional traffic and highways initiatives. A budget of £49,000 has been identified and proposals include an area wide Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Programme, installation of a pedestrian refuge at the Parkway, and consideration of the installation of parking bays at Kestrel Close in response to a petition received.

5.2 VAS Programme

Members have already identified a number of sites across the area for a VAS Programme. They are:

- Bonemill Lane between Swinhope and Danby
- Rickleton Way between Coquet and Cheviot middle
- Castle Rd (Oxclose between Bamburgh and Warkworth)
- Ayton Rd – before and after Holley Park Primary School
- Bonemill Lane Alderwood

- Fallowfield Way
- Barmston ring road Horsley Road
- Wormhill Terrace
- Vigo Lane
- Pattinson Road near Teal Farm
- Manor Rd – near to school as traffic comes under the bridge
- Sulgrave Rd
- Vermont Rd prior to mini roundabout next to St Andrew's Church
- Parkway
- Junction into Springwell Village from 60mph road from Wrekenton – before the Bowes Railway Crossing.
- Donwell periphery road from roundabout at High Usworth Church to Bluehouse Lane Roundabout

These sites are currently being assessed and Members will be invited to prioritise the sites following completion of the assessments. Costs of the scheme will be met through the Washington Road Safety Scheme funding as detailed in 5.1.

- 5.3 The installation of a pedestrian refuge is proposed for the Parkway near to the Medical Centre funded through the Washington Road Safety Scheme.
- 5.4 The City Council has received a petition regarding parking on Kestrel Close. One option being explored at this time is a jointly funded scheme, with Gentoo, to install up to 9 parking bays for use by residents of Kestrel Close. Investigations are still to be carried out with regard to the possibility of the presence of utilities and once that exercise is completed final costs for the scheme can be determined. It is expected that a sum of £9,000 will be available from the Washington Road Safety Scheme funding.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Agree to commissioning activity through a Call for Projects to deliver education and skills programmes and generate opportunities for young people in the culture and heritage sector in Washington.
- Agree to the 3 traffic initiatives as detailed in Section 5 through the Washington Road Safety Scheme funding

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